

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunications Council
Business Meeting – March 6th, 2012**

**Common Council Chambers
City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.**

I. Members Present: Eric Ost, Carl Zager, & Duane Busick

II. Public Comment

Lennon Beasley

*Lifetime Romance Movie played on 2/14 & 2/18

*66 new programs produced

*New program, Worship Together, Sing praise & worship songs from at Mooresville Spring Hill Christian Center

*Birthday Celebration aired this month as well.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Carl motioned to accept the February minutes. Motion was seconded by Duane. Question was called, all were in favor. There were no corrections.

IV. Reports and Announcements

1. Telecom Members:

Duane (Report) – Mentioned emails that were exchanged about the attempt to attach a 3% franchise fee or service fee for satellite services. We are following this closely under the guidance of Representative Matt Pierce. An attempt was made during the last week of the legislative session to cut franchise fees for municipalities from 5% to 3% but then tack on a 3% franchise fee/service fee for satellite services.

Eric – Senate Bill 344 was pertaining to a 911 fee, for both land lines and cell phones. It would reduce the land line fee. The whole bill hasn't been heard but could be in the following weeks.

Duane – This was a catch all bill for all funding.

Carl – The whole process illustrates that we are in move toward centralization; not only moving revenue but moving control to the state level.

Eric (Report) –

- I want to thank the members of the Common Council for officially re-appointing me to the Telecommunication Council.
- There are still two vacancies open for appointment by the Common Council.
- Representative Matt Pierce mentioned that he recalled a communication study being done back in the 1990's. The report was located in the county clerk's office. The report was commissioned and paid for by a fund from the Indiana Department of Commerce Strategic Development. Metro Utility Communication was the company in California hired to help with the report. The report was published in May 1997.

2. CATS – Michael White

*Monthly programming

*CATS are meeting at the courthouse regularly to assist with the setting up of wires during the renovation.

Carl – Where can the viewers find schedules for showtimes?

Michael – The best place is CATSTV.NET. We have the schedule on many community calendars; the HT offers a sampling of what's on. We were contacted by Smithville to be put on their grid.

3. WTIU – Joe Hren

*monthly programming

*A thank you to the Monroe County Commissioners for giving WTIU a grant to add severe weather information and delays and closings on the world channel this year.

Duane – You are right in the middle of your fund drive now, how is it going and what are some things people could expect on the big channel?

Joe – We are doing some membership campaigning on the World channel. The Singing Hoosiers just aired; I believe they will also air on PBS National. Also premiered was “Our Town” local documentaries. The fund drive is up from last year in the amount of dollars pledged.

V. Information from or about Video Service Provider – No Report

VI. Old Business

1. Franchise Fee’s Revenue for October – December 2011

AT & T = \$48, 669.56

Comcast = \$156,047.61

Smithville = \$10.61

Total = \$204,727.78

Year Total for 2011 = \$830,939.41 (represents a net increase of 3.5%)

VII. New Business

Eric - Past Communication Study Reports

- The first report was written in 1980’s by Susan Eastman. Her report had some interesting recommendations. This report is the reason why we have six public access channels; why there was a provision in the franchise to request equivalent band width. Her report had a profound impact.
- The 1997 report is larger. Its conclusions focus on the needs of the community.
- 2004/2005: The Bloomington Digital Underground Strategic Plan was created. It is available on the city’s website.
- 2009/2010: Video Strategic Plan was written by Ralph Frizer. This plan is also available on the website.

We need to look more into the findings of these reports, especially those unmet needs. At a glance, these reports seem to be in-line with the proposal that we are making for a communication study group.

Carl – Question for Michael White

How does CATS determine what government meetings are covered? And whether they are covered live or delayed? Is there guidance that you get from the city and county?

Michael – There are contractual decisions that say certain meetings will be covered. Then there are other meetings where the public contacts us to tape the meetings.

Carl – I’m trying to develop in my mind what the impact would be without those meetings being covered.

Michael – Anyone watching, if you think a meeting needs to be covered, contact us.

Eric – Meetings can also be taped by members of the public and submitted to CATS.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Eric that the meeting be adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting

April 3rd, 2012

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted by:

Stephanie Jachim 3/22/2012